THE Equitable Life **Assurance Society**

OF THE UNITED STATES.

Outstanding Assurance Dec. 31, 1899 Assurance applied for

\$1,054,416,422 00

237,356,610 00

280,191,286 80

in 1899 Examined and Declined

34,054,778 00 New Assurance Issued 203,301,832 00 53,878,200 86

Assets Dec: 31, 1899 Assurance Fund \$216,384,975 oo and all other liabilities

Income

\$2,688,834 03 219,073,809 03 Surplus 01,117,477 77

Paid policy holders in JAMES W. ALEXANDER, President.

24,107,541 44

JAMES H. HYDE, Vice-President. WALTER N. PARKHURST, General Manager, New Mexico and Arizona Department, Albuquerque, N. M.

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(Special Correspondence.)

Oriental Room.

In the gay capital in this its gayest under Minister Wu Ting Fang, has al-



THE CHINESE LEGATION. ready acquired fame for its generous hospitality. In these days, when we are talking so much about the "open door" to China, there is a peculiar interest attached to things oriental, and the establishment of China's diplomatic representative here, apart from the engaging personality of the minister himself, is our of the most attractive and interesting places in Washington.

It may be fairly said that China and not have a more enlightened, courteous and efficient envoy than she in the person of Wu Ting Fang. He is not only an amiable man, but a thoroughly accomplished diplomat with an excellent command of the English language, acquired in Hongkong and perfected in England, whither he went to study law, being admitted to

the bar at Lincoln's lnn. At the conclusion of his studies in secretary. Subsequently be was aprallways and while holding this office tinguished husband. supervised the construction of the first rallroad ever built in the Celestial empire, a circumstance of which he is slippers, peeping out from beneath a very proud. He is a progressive man petticoat of wonderful texture. The and keeps abreast of the times. Mr. oriental gown was of soft heliotrope, Wu took a prominent part in the peace negotiations between China and Japan, and on her head was a close fitting acting as first secretary of the peace mission and plenipotentiary to ex- els of great brilliancy and value. The change ratifications for the treaty. Lat little gold slippers were scarcely large er he was named chief director of the

Tien-tsin university. Socially the Chinese minister has scored a great success during his residence here, and the present season will this respect. He has all the attributes that go to make a man desirable in soclety and, dressed in the picturesque costume of his country, is in constant evidence at social functions. He entertains, too, assiduously and lavishly, and no cards of invitation are more highly prized and eagerly accepted than those which come from the Chinese legation.

Mrs. Wu, the minister's wife, is a bright faced, dainty and attractive wo-



WU TING FANG, CHINESE MINISTER. man, with the tinlest of feet and the gentlest of small valces. She did not speak much English when she arrived her husband's progressive ideas and their customs and their doings. She is of oriental spiendor. of equal rank with her bushand, a fact indicated by various oronments that adorn her costume, and is entitled to enter and leave the room at the side rather than behind him. Her gowns, of rich brocade, heavy with embroidery, are beautiful, and no woman in Washington society wears more magalficent jewels or a greater profusion

There are about 50 people connected with the Chinese legation; all living ider the same roof with the minister and his family, and the house occupied is one of the largest and most elabo-

rately furnished in Washington. Most of the attaches are socially inclined and are seen much at the theaters and private and official entertalpments. several of them are extremely popular The Chinese Legation Is Most and are frequently seen escorting daughters of congressmen and other young women about the city. In such circumstances they are most considerate of small details and always provide the finest flowers that can be had and in other ways look after the comfort and pleasure of their companions. They are a generous people, and the personal friends of the members of the egation fare well at their hands in the matter of tea that costs \$20 a pound, if you could buy it at all, rolls of soft, shimmering silk and other gifts of the products of the orient.

At the social functions at the Chinese legation there is a quaint blending of oriental splendor and American simplicity which is to be found nowhere else in Washington, for Minister and Mrs. Wu entertain in a manner peculiar to themselves. No better dinners WASHINGTON, Feb. 26-The president's are given in the city than those over New Year reception sets the social ball | which Mrs. Wu presides, and her afterrolling in the national capital and form- noon teas are very popular. There is ally opens what promises to be the at all events a general rush to the Chimost brilliant season in recent years. nese legation on its reception days. If the host and hostess are ever bored, season there is perhaps no place where | they give no sign of it, but smile and entertainments will be more elaborate say pleasant words as the long procesthan at the Chinese legation, which, sion of men and women, mainly the latter, file by with curious, eager eyes. It was your correspondent's good fortune to attend a recent reception at the Chinese legation.

Upon entering the big, square hall, with its heavily paneled oak celling and wainscoting, its polished floor covered with softest rugs, and window curtains and portieres of unique Chinese design, one is immediately conscious of an air of oriental splendor and notes the scent of some rare perfumes of the far east. At the foot of a beautifully carved staircase sat the minister's little son, dressed in a soft. clinging robe, with cap and pigtail complete. He was taking the cards from the usher and passing them to the minister's nephew, also in robe, cap and cue, who carefully numbered them for future reference. After giving up their cards the guests were passed on to the next usher, who upon entering the reception room announced their names with tremendous solemnity and appeared to say, "Behold the lord mayor of Timbuktu and the lady mayoress," while in truth, presumably, he gave only the modest names of the visitors. Upon this impressive



announcement Mrs. Wu tooked up with her big brown eyes and smilingly ex-London Mr. Wu returned to China and tended her hand, as did also the minisbegan the practice of law. But he be- ter. The reception could not have been came known to Li Hung Chang and more cordial and whole hearted. The was soon attached to his staff as legal smile of the little lady from the orient spoke volumes of welcome, as did the pointed government superintendent of gracious and simple words of her dis-

Mrs. Wu was seated in a high chair. her tiny feet, incased in pointed gold elaborately embroidered with pearls. black cap, in which were fastened jewenough for an American child a year

At her side stood the minister, Wu Ting Fang, dressed in truly royal style. with yellow bronze trousers, or rather unquestionably add to his prestige in petticoats, a jacket of a darker shade of the same color, richly embroidered. and a close fitting black cap, with a big diamond set in its band. He wore the regular Chinese shoes and was surrounded by a dozen or more pretty girls from high official life, who were assisting in the reception.

Passing through the long parlors, which are mainly decorated with American furnishings, the great ballroom is reached. Over in one corner was a square table, on which glistened the pretty tea service, presided over by the young wife of an army officer. She was assisted in serving by several of the attaches of the legation, while the cups and light refreshments were taken to and from the room for replenishing by a big black "mammy," assisted by two little Chinese girls in native costume.

Most interesting of all in connection with the Chinese legation is the oriental room, which is unquestionably the finest and most elaborate apartment of its kind in this country. The soft light from the great Chinese chandelier brings out in all their beauty the details of its sumptuous eastern furnishings. There are great rugs and divans with buge pillows, chairs covered with loose scarfs of richest embroidery, crystal lamps with curious native ornaments, unique musical inin this country, but has added to her struments and strange weapons of vocabulary until she now gets along warfare, rare china and bric-a-brac very well with visitors. She shares and among them all great vases of warfare, rare china and bric-a-brac roses. It is a most entrancing glimpse takes a lively interest in Americans, of the far east and a faithful copy

SAMUEL HUBBARD.

Friend-1 suppose there are a great many people who owe you their lives. Doctor-They say they do, but the relatives always kick like thunder when I accidentally collect a bill of that kind.—San Francisco Examiner.

When It Doesn't Turn. A woman's silk frock is spun by a worm, but if the worm tries to crawl on it the woman shricks.-Chicago RecTAKE THE

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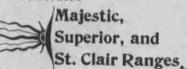
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